

**ABSTRACT**

Requests for content and delivery of content are handled in an asymmetric manner, with more bandwidth devoted to the delivery of the content than to the request for content. The request for content is sent upstream over a first network and then sent  
5 upstream to a content library over a second network. The content is retrieved from the content library, based on the request, and sent over a third network that is distinct (logically and/or physically) from the second network. The third network has high bandwidth compared to the bandwidth of the second network. The retrieved content is processed, which may include buffering and decrypting, and is then sent to the user.  
10 The retrieved content may be sent to the user downstream over the first network, using more bandwidth than the bandwidth used for sending the request upstream from the user.